

REMARKS

Claims 31, 33-35, and 47-49 are pending in the application, claims 13-21, and 46 being canceled herein. Claims 1-12, 22-30, 37, and 38 were previously canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention to pursuant to a Restriction Requirement. Claims 32, 36, 39-45 were also canceled previously. Claims 31 and 47 are the only independent claims.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention, since claim 35 depends from canceled claim 32.

In response to the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that claim has been amended to depend from independent claim 31. Amended claim 35 is considered to be definite and in conformity with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 13-21 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al. (of record) in view of Wilk and Holmberg, of record.

Claims 31, 33, 34, and 47-49 have been allowed. The Examiner indicated that claim 35 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The present Amendment cancels all rejected claims, except claim 35, which has been amended to correct the defect noted by the Examiner.

The claim amendments, if any, made herein are made without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue additional subject matter in a separate continuation or divisional application.

Conclusion

The application is deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants note that the issue fee was already paid in this case. Perhaps the application can be forwarded immediately to the issue branch for expeditious processing towards issuance.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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